

## Adult Social Care Best Practice Guidance in the application of Defensible Decision Making

**Defensible decision making** means recording a clear rationale for all the **decisions** you make and the discussions that led to the **decision(s)**.

**Your decisions in practice should withstand ‘hindsight scrutiny’ should something go wrong.**



When making a **Defensible Decision** you must consider the following:

### Getting the facts

- What are the relevant facts?
- What information is not known? Can I learn more about the situation?
- Do I know enough to make a decision?
- Who has an important stake in the outcome?
- Are some concerns more important than others? Why?
- What evidence have I gathered that supports the fact?

## **Evaluate Alternative Actions**

- Which option will produce the most good and do the least harm?
- Which option best respects the rights of all who have a stake?
- Which option treats people equally or proportionately?
- Which option leads me to act as the sort of person I want to be?

## **Make a Decision, Reflect and Act**

- Considering all these approaches, which option best addresses the situation?
- If I told someone I respect which option I have chosen, what would they say?
- How can my decision be implemented with considered care and attention to the concerns of the person?
- How did my decision turn out and what have I learned from this specific situation?
- What would I do differently next time?

### **Remember...**

**Ensure your decision making is grounded in evidence.**

**Collect, verify and thoroughly evaluate information available.**



**Record a rationale for your decision making always.**

**Communicate with relevant others, and seek information you do not have.**

**Always respond to escalations in need and /or risks immediately.**

**Seek support and guidance as you need it and record all discussions and actions with your rationale.**

